

What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 17, 2001

MPDC 2000 ANNUAL REPORT NOW ON-LINE

As DC's population grew and demands for police service increased, crime in the District still declined for the fifth consecutive year in 2000. That's one of the findings of the MPDC's 2000 Annual Report, which is now available on-line and in hard copy. Overall serious (or "index") crime was down by just under 1 percent last year, continuing a five-year trend that has seen crime drop by more than 38 percent. When factoring in population, which rose in DC to more than 572,000 residents in 2000, the District's crime rate fell by almost 10 percent last year and is down 40 percent since 1995. Meanwhile, requests for police service rose sharply in 2000. Calls to 9-1-1 shot up nearly 13 percent, while calls to the police non-emergency numbers (3-1-1 and 727-1010) rose by 19 percent. Nevertheless, call answering times for both emergency and non-emergency calls were decreased last year. Reflecting the continued decrease in reported crime, arrests for serious ("index") crimes declined in 2000, while arrests for "non-index" offenses rose slightly. Traffic fatalities rose slightly for the year, although arrests were drunken driving were up. Complete details on these and other crime and performance trends for 2000, along with an MPDC organizational chart and other Departmental information, can be found in the 2000 Annual Report. To request a hard copy of the document, contact Corporate Communications at 202-727-2663 or e-mail kjunge@mpdc.org. You can also view the report on-line, in PDF format, at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/2000ar_pdf.pdf

MPDC SEEKS TO HIRE 15 NEW POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

With calls for police service continuing to increase, the MPDC is looking to hire at least 15 new Police Communications Operators to assist police officers in responding to 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls. After a training period, the operators assist Senior Communications Operators (or dispatchers) by responding to requests from field units to process wanted subjects, stolen vehicles, tag numbers, permit numbers, and various other types of information requests through a variety of law enforcement systems and databases. The individuals operate a computer to interface with the various systems and to produce event records. They also relieve dispatchers during break periods, emergencies and the like. The positions are represented by the National Association of Government Employees union and pay between \$28,970 and \$36,420 a year. Operators work in DC's new, state-of-the-art Public Safety Communications Center, located on McMillan Road, NW (behind Howard University). Get complete details about the Police Communications Operator position, including information on how to apply, by going to:

For information about other civilian positions in the MPDC, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/FA_0207.shtm#duties

TRAVELING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

The holidays are a time when many DC residents will be traveling to visit family and friends. Whether you will be away for a day or a week or more, it always makes sense to practice some simple burglary prevention measures that will help keep your home and valuables safe. For example, get an automatic timer that will turn on lights and maybe a radio or television in your home. Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow, and park in the driveway (if you have one) from time to time. And don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped (or ask a trusted friend to pick them up). If these items pile up, it's a sure sign you're gone. Basically, you want to make your home look "lived in" so burglars won't see it as a target. For more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year, visit:

*For additional holiday safety tips, go to:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm*

mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES COUNCIL ON MPDC PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The MPDC has maintained its sworn ranks at 3,600 officers and enhanced the quality of its workforce in the last few years because of improvements in the Department's personnel policies and practices, Chief Ramsey reported to the DC Council this week. In testimony before the Council's Judiciary Committee, Ramsey said that despite a very competitive job market in recent years, the MPDC has been able to keep pace with – even exceed – attrition through more aggressive recruiting. Recruiting reforms have included the creation of a "lateral hire" program that allows the MPDC to hire experienced officers from other agencies (135 lateral hires have been hired and completed training to date). The Chief also reported that the educational levels of officers are increasing, and training in the Department has been dramatically expanded to include a mandatory 40-hour annual course of instruction for every sworn member. Promotional opportunities have been expanded and better publicized, awards and recognition have been enhanced, and major reforms have been instituted in the disciplinary process. Responding to Councilmembers' concerns about police staffing and deployment, the Chief also announced that he was presenting to the Mayor a new staffing plan that will enhance police visibility in the PSAs, while continuing to meet the MPDC's unique policing responsibilities. Read Chief Ramsey's complete statement before the Judiciary Committee:

*The MPDC continues to seek qualified candidates interested in a career in law enforcement – either as recruit officers or lateral hires. To learn more about career opportunities in the MPDC, go to:
mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm*

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2001/121301b.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV